

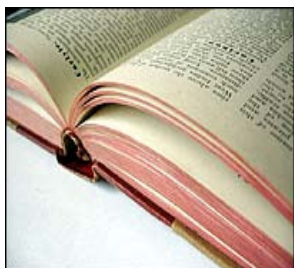
Caritas Corner

*When you are old and grey and full of sleep
And nodding by the fire, take down this book
And slowly read, and dream of the soft look
Your eyes had once, and of their shadows deep*

*How many loved your moments of glad grace
And loved your beauty with love false or true
But one man loved the pilgrim soul in you
And loved the sorrows of your changing face*

*And bending down beside the glowing bars
Murmur, a little sadly, how Love fled
And paced upon the mountains overhead
And hid his face amid a crowd of stars* WB Yeats

A warm and cosy welcome to all our Stone on the Bench readers. Time is indeed passing by as it is almost 6 months that we have last connected. Here in our Valley winter has sneaked in at a much quicker and faster rate than previous years. It is all very exciting (well for many of us) as what better way to spend inviting days and comfy nights in front of a log fire, with one hand holding a glass of your favourite drink (which will naturally warm you up) and in the other hand a fine book! With this picture in mind does Caritas not enter our minds? Such a magical place was created for us but without the books it just would not have been the same. So on the note of books, we would like to say thank you to all those generous people once more for donating their books to us. There are few of these newly donated books on our shelves and a few from book shops, which I would like to mention and maybe when you browse around in Caritas, pull it from the shelves.



★*The Inner Journey – Views from the Christian Tradition.* Lorraine Kisly edits this anthology of essays, poems, stories, and interviews on the multiple mysteries of the Christian path (Christianity Section). There is a beautiful quote from the book: *Love does not discriminate or categorize; it does not insist on being right. Love embraces all things in that great, empty silence beyond words or thought, which is the wide-open door to ecstasy and to unending joy.*

★*The Garden of the Beloved by Robert Way* (Spiritual Section). This is a real gem. The back cover of the book says it all: ‘A parable of tenderness and beauty that was been compared favourably with Kahlil Gibran’s *The Prophet*. Robert Way’s simple tale explores attitudes necessary for people to conserve the world they live in and to serve the high calling of love. Readers of all ages will treasure its message’. It is one of those easy in-house reading books as you can easily just settle down on one of Caritas comfy couches, light a candle, take in all of the Temenos-garden-splendour, ponder and absorb the 72-page-beauty in gratification with life. I personally clung to this book for a while but in the end I did let go and the book found its way back to Caritas ... not without a struggle though, but the good news is, I got my own!

There is this beautiful quote in the beginning of the book:

*The rapturous nightingale sings
Wooing the rose
In the midst of the Garden newborn
But only the gardener knows
Of the labour that brings
To the garden its beauty; he toiled all day in the heat
And his feet
Have been wounded by many a thorn (The Divan of Zeb-un-Nissa)*

Reading this book and you ponder: Did Robert Way maybe had Temenos and our 'own gardener' in mind when he wrote *The Garden of the Beloved*? ☺.

★**Darling Judi – A celebration of Judi Dench – intro and edited by John Miller** (Auto-Biography Section). Anyone who has enjoyed Dame Judi Dench's work over approximately 40 years will surely enjoy reading this book. It is a real down-memory-lane with Judi Dench's life and career.

★**Zorba the Greek by Nikos Kazantzak** is back on our shelves. We need no introduction when it comes to this real classic. Who will ever forget those beautiful gems and wise words of Zorba which flow right through the book? That famous line when Zorba says: *'God has a very big heart but there is one sin he will not forgive: if a woman calls a man to her bed and he will not go. I know because a very wise old Turk told me'*.

And then this piece of prose is so exquisite:

Zorba: *'A man's heart suffers when it rains. You must not bear it any ill-will boss. The poor wretch has a soul too. He stooped by a hedge and picked the first little wild narcissi. He looked at them a long while, as if he could not see enough of them, as if he was seeing narcissi for the first time. He closed his eyes and smelled them, sighed, then gave them to me.'*

'If only we knew, boss, what the stones and rain and flowers say. Maybe they call – call us – and we don't hear them. When will peoples' ears open, boss? When shall we have our eyes open to see? When shall we open our arms to embrace everything – stones, rain, flowers, and men? What do you think about that, boss? And what do your books have to say about that?'

And of course one of Billy's favourite little treasure from the book: According to Zorba the aim of man and matter is to create joy! And the highest point a man can attain is not knowledge, or virtue, or goodness, or victory, but something even greater, more heroic and more despairing: Sacred Awe!

★This is an excellent winter read: One of Billy's favourite books which is now also back on our shelves: **The Winter Vault by Anne Michaels (Fiction)**. Back cover info: *'Read this book like poetry, or rather hear it like music ... Anne guides us to the top of some extraordinary peaks of feeling and perception'* Independent, and *'There are many phrases to be underlined, remembered and savoured. It is in its dealing with grief that The Winter Vault finds its deepest roots but Anne does not deny her characters, or her readers the respite of hope ... Exquisite'* Financial Times.

And so we have come to the end of our report back on Caritas Corner. Just a friendly reminder that when you bring the books back to the library please just leave them at the space where it says: *'Returned Books'* and we will get them back in the right place. Thanks.

Keep warm, take care of yourself and never stop reading! I you want to recommend a beautiful book or just any other general input please contact me franster@telkomsa.net

*I've travelled the world twice over,
Met the famous; saints and sinners,
Poets and artists, kings and queens,
Old stars and hopeful beginners,
I've been where no-one's been before,
Learned secrets from writers and cooks
All with one library ticket
To the wonderful world of books.* Unknown



Love
Fran